

Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts

SUBJECT Art Students League of New York

FILE NUMBER 105-HQ-124383



Federal Bureau of Investigation

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 9-24-63

FROM : LEGAT, MANILA (105-320) P

SUBJECT: ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK
IS - CH

Re Manila letter 8/22/63 entitled [REDACTED] aka. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; IS-CH", (BUfile [REDACTED])
Manila [REDACTED] b7C

During the course of following this matter with [REDACTED] American Consul, Singapore, she advised on 9/13/69 that she estimated in the last three months at least 6 Chinese had received student visas to attend the ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK, 215 West 57th Street, New York 19, New York. These Chinese were all paying their own way and not on grants. She said they all come into the office with an appropriate Immigration and Naturalization form properly completed. The latest of these individuals is [REDACTED] mentioned above. [REDACTED] said that in her experience the Chinese are extraordinarily quick to find any loopholes in U.S. procedures that will enable them to go to the U.S. She wondered whether there might be something fraudulent about this school and whether this was a means by which otherwise ineligible Chinese including possibly Chinese Communists, could enter the U.S. b7C

[REDACTED] requested that an investigation be conducted to ascertain the bona fides of subject organization, so that if there is something dubious about it she could be guided accordingly. b7C

A copy of this letter is being designated for Legat, Tokyo, to determine if the American Consulate in Hong Kong is experiencing the same interest in this school.

- (5) - Bureau (1 - Liaison Section)
(2 - NYO)
1 - Legat, Tokyo (sent direct)
1 - Manila

RBH:LM
(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/3/00 BY SP-4 Bja/Heg

914480
105- 124383 -




DO NOT REPLY DIA
SEC. I
MCT-4

2 Copy to [REDACTED]
by routing slip for
☐ Info ☒ action
date 10-9-63
L [REDACTED]

007893
REC-102

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Branch

, 19__

☐ Name Searching Unit - Room 6527
☐ Service Unit - Room 6524
☐ Forward to File Review
☐ Attention 
☐ Return to  RM. 627 RB. EXT. 
Supervisor Room Ext.

b7c

Type of References Requested:

☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)
☒ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
☐ Subversive References Only
☐ Nonsubversive References Only
☐ Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

☒ Restricted to Locality of NY
☒ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Subject ART STUDENTS LEAGUE of
 Birthdate & Place _____ NEW YORK
 Address _____

Localities

R# _____ Date 10/15 Initials HP

Prod.

FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
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INU	105- 124383
PF	100- 69149-1 (12-4)

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED~~

~~HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED~~

DATE 2/2/77 BY _____

—B—

#914180

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 11/1/63

FROM : Legat, Tokyo (105-2609) (RUC)

SUBJECT: ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK
IS - CH

Re Manila letter 9/24/63.

Set forth in the following are the results of inquiry made of the American Consulate General, Hong Kong, B.C.C. in response to reflet:

Over the past two years this Consulate General has occasionally received applications from students who proposed to attend the Art Students League of New York. The nonimmigrant visa officer recalls having received only two such applications in recent months. However, neither case was approved because it was apparent that both applicants were intending immigrants. This office has found that admission to the League is generally arranged for the applicants by their relatives or friends in New York and that more often than not the applicants themselves have little or no knowledge of the course of study it offers and only a vague idea of the benefits they expect to derive from their studies there. In one such case, the applicant was asked to submit any descriptive material she had received concerning the League. It consisted of letters from her boy friend explaining that he had chosen this school for her because admission to it was easy to arrange and attendance requirements were lenient.

3 Copy to NY
by routing slip for
☒ info ☐ action
date 11-21-63
by mejm

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/3/00 BY P.46jaltog

REC-31

105-124383-2

NOV 18 1963

- 5 - Bureau
 (1 - Foreign Liaison)
 (2 - New York)
1 - Legat, Manila (sent direct)
1 - Tokyo

JLM/bje

64 NOV 21 1963

NAT. INT. SEC.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-124383)

DATE: 11-27-63

FROM : *B* LEGAT, MANILA (105-320) P

SUBJECT: ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK
IS - CH

Re Manila letter 9/24/63 and Tokyo letter 11/1/63.

Subject organization was discussed with [REDACTED] American Consul, Manila. [REDACTED] has charge of issuance of visas. He advised that he could not recall any visa applicants, Chinese or Filipino, who had requested visa to attend the Art Students League of New York, but would check into it and discuss it with other officers on his staff. *b7C*

12 On 11/26/63, [REDACTED] advised he could find no reference to the subject organization but requested to be advised of the result of any Bureau investigation. *b7C*

⑤ - Bureau (1 - Liaison Section)
(2 - NYO)

1 - Manila

RBH:LM
(6)

REC-55

8 DEC 2 1963

105-124383-3

*Let to [REDACTED] (Encls. 2)
VER: cy 12 7-63*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *3/3/00* BY *SP-4 Bjt/ty*

NAT SEC

1 - [REDACTED] b7C
12-9-63

SAC, New York

Director, FBI (105-124383) - 3

REC-128

ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK
IS - CH

Re Manilalet 11-27-63, two copies of which are enclosed for New York.

Submit letterhead memorandum setting forth characterization of captioned school. Do not conduct any investigation of captioned institution. Inquiry should be restricted to established sources, public sources and information in your indices.

Bufiles contain no information identifiable with captioned subject.

Enclosures - 2

VER:cej
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/3/00 BY SP-4 BJA/leg

NOTE:

U. S. Consul, Philippines, advised several Chinese had received student visas to attend captioned institution located New York City. U. S. Consul requested to be advised whether there is any indication captioned organization is at all questionable.

0-1 NY
1/24/64
by 1/3/64

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAILED 30
DEC 6 1963

66 DEC 10 1963

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-124383)

DATE: 1-17-64

FROM : LEGAT, MANILA (105-320) P

SUBJECT: ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK
IS - CH

Re Manila letter 9/24/63.

It is requested that New York Office advise of results of investigation requested in referenced Manila letter in form suitable for dissemination.

Road trip to Singapore is contemplated in early March.

- (4) - Bureau (1 - Liaison Section)
(1 - NYO)
1 - Manila

RBH:LM
(5)

Copy to _____
by routing slip for
☒ info ☐ action
date 1-24-64
by [signature]

REC-53

105-124383-4

3 JAN 28 1964

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/3/00 BY [signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-124383)

DATE:

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-22306) (C)

SUBJECT: ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK
IS - CH

ReBulet to NY, 12/9/63.

Enclosed for Bureau are 6 copies of a LHM dated and captioned as above, one of which is included for forwarding to Legat Manila.

The confidential source mentioned in the enclosed LHM is [REDACTED] b2 b7D

NYO files contain no information positively identifiable with the [REDACTED] of the captioned organization. One [REDACTED] New York, was a subscriber to the "Daily Worker." One [REDACTED] who resided at [REDACTED] New York, [REDACTED] registered with the American Labor Party [REDACTED] and from [REDACTED] He subscribed to the "National Guardian" [REDACTED] "New Challenge," official publication of the Labor Youth League. Since such information was not definitely known to apply to the [REDACTED] of the Art Students League, and since it did not show direct CP affiliation, it was deemed appropriate for inclusion in a LHM describing the Art Students League as requested in referenced letter.

While isolated individuals and incidents connected with the Art Students League may be subject to question, the general reputation of the school itself appears to be favorable. In view of this and in the light of instructions contained in reBulet, no further investigation is being contemplated by the NYO and the case is being closed.

3-Bureau (ENCLS. 6) (RM)
(1-Legat Manila) (105-320)
1-New York

REC-13

105-124383-5

3 JAN 81 1964

HJQ:kgm
(4)

Copy to Legat Manila
by routing slip for (3ccs encl)
☒ info ☐ action
date 2-4-64
by [REDACTED]

EX-117

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/3/00 BY [REDACTED]

61 FEB 11 1964

NAT. SEC.

EXP. PROC.

40



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
New York, New York

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Art Students League of New York

On December 26, 1963, a confidential source who is in
a position to furnish reliable information advised that

b7D [REDACTED]

b7D [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7C [REDACTED]

In January, 1953, [REDACTED] stated that he had attended the art school in New York from September, [REDACTED] to December, [REDACTED]. It was apparent to him that many of the students at this school were very much in sympathy with the Communist Party.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/3/00 BY [REDACTED]

This document contains neither
recommendations nor conclusions
of the FBI. It is the property
of the FBI and is loaned to your
agency; it and its contents are
not to be distributed outside
your agency.

Art Students League of New York

ideals and that the general feelings there were very "anti-American" and "anti-capitalistic." He stated that the "Daily Worker" and the "Guardian" were two of the publications read by many of these students and that these publications were freely handed out on the steps of the school.

The "Daily Worker" is a former East Coast Communist newspaper.

The 1949 report of the California Committee on American Activities cited the "National Guardian" as a publication founded in New York in 1948, aiming at national circulation, which was found to be, from its inception, notoriously Stalinistic in its staff, writers, management, and content.

In January, 1954, [REDACTED] b7C
Art Students League, stated that the league is an art school in which a student registers at the end of each month. He says it is not a school from which a student graduates and receives a degree, but is used by artists for the facilities provided by the school. He stated that most of the students are accomplished artists who register as students so they will have the use of the classroom as a studio and the benefit of a model. He said the school generally registers approximately 1,900 students per month. He said there were some students at the school who are pro-Communist, but he termed them "mal-contents." [REDACTED] b7C

b7C [REDACTED] added that this group is definitely in the minority.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI (105-124383)

DATE: 5/26/66

FROM : Legat, Tokyo (105-2609)

SUBJECT: ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF NEW YORK
IS - CH

HK File: 105-46

Due to opening of the Hong Kong Office, the following action is being taken in captioned matter:

(a) Location of File

- (1) ☒ Entire file transferred to Hong Kong herewith.
- (2) ☐ File transferred to Hong Kong except copy of following serials retained at Tokyo:

- (3) ☐ File retained at Tokyo but copy of following serials transferred to Hong Kong:

(b) Status

- (1) At Tokyo: ☐ Pending ☒ RUC
- (2) At Hong Kong: ☐ Pending ☒ RUC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/5/75 BY SP-4 HPA/ky
#914180

1 - Bureau
1 - Hong Kong
1 - Tokyo
1 - New York (100-24309)
1 - Manila (105-320)
HLC/djw
(5)

60 JUN 1 1966

105-124383-
3 12 BH, ee

NOT RECORDED

14 MAY 31 1966

NAT. INT. SEC.